Dominion

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CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 18, 2012

Ms. Sharon Allen Northern Regional Office 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193

RE: <u>Dominion - Possum Point Power Station VPDES Permit No. VA0002071:</u> <u>Five-Day Notification Letter</u>

Dear Ms. Allen:

The following information pertains to the total residual chlorine (TRC) exceedance that was measured on April 14, 2012 at Possum Point Power Station's Outfall 004. It should be noted that on April 14, a TRC concentration of 0.11 mg/L was determined for a sample of Potomac River water, which is the primary source of make-up water to station processes that contribute wastewaters to Outfall 004.

- 1. Spill date and time: A leak was discovered on the Unit 6 pretreatment hypochlorite feed system on April 13, 2012 at approximately 8:20 PM.
- 2. Type of product spilled: Hypochlorite (bleach)
- 3. Cause of spill: A hypochlorite feed line located inside the Unit 6 pretreatment building had failed and leaked into the Unit 6 pretreatment building's sump. The sump pumps were isolated for repair, but during this event, a portable sump pump was in service which sent the hypochlorite to clarifiers and into the service water system. The service water ultimately combines with flows from other internal discharges into the Low Volume Settling Ponds which make-up Outfall 004.
- **4. Specific location of spill:** The spill occurred inside of the Unit 6 pretreatment building at Possum Point Power Station, 19000 Possum Point Road, Dumfries, Virginia 22026.
- **5. Volume of product spilled:** Estimated 425 gallons of the hypochlorite leaked into the Unit 6 pretreatment building's sump.
- **6.** Volume of product reaching State waters or storm drain systems: The hypochlorite not retained in the sump was pumped into the clarifiers, then to the clear well tank, which supplies water to the cooling tower basin and the Technasands filtration system, which supplies water to the service water system. Wastewaters generated within the service water system are eventually directed to the Low Volume Settling Ponds and are ultimately discharged via

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permitted Outfall 004. Therefore, the Hypochlorite released from the sump was divided between the cooling tower basin and the wastewater sources that contribute to Unit 6 before entering the Low Volume Settling Pond system. The Low Volume Settling Ponds are typically dechlorinated by treatment with sodium bisulfite, and concentrations of sodium bisulfite were increased during this incident to offset the elevated chlorine concentrations.

- 7. Name of the waterway that spill discharged into: Eventually discharged to the Potomac River via Outfall 004. Outfall 004 was monitored on April 14, 2012 for TRC and test results yielded 0.14 mg/L. (Note a TRC test on raw Potomac River water on April 14th yielded a result of 0.11 mg/L.)
- 8. Description of clean up measures: Station operators controlled the leak at the time of discovery by isolating the hypochlorite tank and feed system. At that time, the hypochlorite was thought to be contained within the Unit 6 pretreatment sump. During further evaluation, it was discovered that use of the portable sump pump had resulted in the introduction of hypochlorite to the Unit 6 service water system. Following this discoverty, on April 14th, the station chemist and operations conducted various spot checks within the Unit 6 service water system upstream of the Low Volume Settling Ponds. The Low Volume Settling Ponds were also monitored and sodium bisulfite feed-rates adjusted accordingly. After treating the Low Volume Settling Ponds with sodium bisulfite for an extended period of time it was noted that chlorine concentrations remained constant even with increased sodium bisulite feed-rates. Make-up water to the service water system is obtained from the Potomac River. Consequently, the station chemist analyzed the Potomac River water at the station raw water intake and a chlorine concentration of 0.11 mg/L was determined. This suggests that a portion of the chlorine measured in the Low Volume Settling Ponds could have been present in the Potomac River make-up water and did not originate from the hypochlorite added by the station. All TRC values returned to normal around 6:00 PM on Saturday April 14, 2012.
- **9. Agencies notified:** Dominion's Jeffrey R. Marcell made a verbal telephone notification to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality on April 16, 2012 at 7:20 AM, and left a voice mail on Ms. Sharon Allen's phone.
- 10. Corrective action taken: Initial corrective action included isolating the hypochlorite tank and increasing the feed-rates for sodium bisulfite at the Low Volume Settling Ponds. The hypochlorite tank containment drain line was plugged and will remain plugged until the sump pumps are repaired and the isolation valve is replaced and relocated for easier access.

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

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If you have any questions and/or comments regarding this information please contact Rick Woolard, of Dominion Electric Environmental Services, at (804) 273-2991.

Sincerely,

Cathy C. Taylor

Director, Electric Environmental Services

cc:

Mrs. Susan Mackert Northern Regional Office 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193